

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02

SPC-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 SS-20

NSC-10 L-03 DRC-01 /161 W

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R 151745Z JAN 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6255

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR, OCON, EEC

SUBJECT: EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (AGRICULTURAL) MEETING,
JANUARY 14-15.

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 0106; (B) EC BRUSSELS 0202.

1. SUMMARY. AT FRENCH INSISTENCE, THE EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
(AGRICULTURAL) MET IN AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION JANUARY 14-15 TO
CONSIDER FRENCH DEMANDS FOR AN IMPORT EMBARGO ON THIRD COUNTRY
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BEEF AND AN IMMEDIATE INCREASE IN THE ORIENTATION PRICE FOR

BEEF. THE COUNCIL DID NOT AGREE ON THE INCREASE IN THE BEEF ORIENTATION PRICE AND REJECTED THE FRENCH REQUEST FOR AN IMPORT EMBARGO BY A MAJORITY VOTE. FOLLOWING THIS VOTE -- FOR WHICH THERE ARE FEW, IF ANY, PRECEDENTS -- THE FRENCH MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE CHIRAC LEFT THE COUNCIL ROOM, AND ERTL, THE GERMAN MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING, ENDED THE COUNCIL SESSION IN THE EARLY MORNING OF JANUARY 15. ON LEAVING THE COUNCIL MEETING, CHIRAC DECLARED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WILL ATTEND THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 21-22. END SUMMARY.

2. AS PREVIOUSLY (REF A), REPORTED THE COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS WAS CALLED INTO AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION FOR JANUARY 14 UPON THE REQUEST OF FRANCE WHICH DEMANDED AN IMMEDIATE EMBARGO ON IMPORTS OF FRESH AND CHILLED BEEF FROM THIRD COUNTRIES AND AN IMMEDIATE INCREASE IN THE ORIENTATION PRICE OF BEEF. WHILE MOST MEMBER STATES WERE AGAINST AN IMPORT EMBARGO, IRELAND AND ITALY INITIALLY SUPPORTED THE FRENCH REQUEST FOR AN INCREASE IN THE BEEF ORIENTATION PRICES PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW BEEF YEAR ON APRIL 1, WHEN THE BEEF ORIENTATION PRICES ARE AT ANY RATE EXPECTED TO BE INCREASED.

3. IN THE COURSE OF LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS PRIMARILY IN A RESTRICTED COUNCIL SESSION, THE COMMISSION ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD EXTEND THE EXISTING EXPORT SUBSIDIES TO OTHER BEEF CUTS THAN THOSE PRESENTLY COVERED BY SUCH SUBSIDIES. THE COMMISSION ALSO INDICATED THAT IT INTENDS TO PROPOSE A FURTHER INCREASE IN THE LIRA EQUIVALENT OF THE UNIT OF ACCOUNT THUS INCREASING THE BEEF ORIENTATION PRICE IN TERMS OF LIRA AS EARLY AS MARCH 1, 1974.

4. WHEN IN CONSEQUENCE OF THESE COMMISSION MOVES, THE IRISH AND ITALIAN DELEGATIONS STOPPED SUPPORTING THE FRENCH REQUEST FOR AN INCREASE IN THE BEEF ORIENTATION PRICE, THE FRENCH CALLED FOR A COUNCIL VOTE ON THEIR REQUEST FOR A IMPORT EMBARGO FOR FRESH AND CHILLED BEEF.

5. AFTER A LEGAL WRANGLE AS TO WHETHER THE COUNCIL COULD VOTE ON THIS FRENCH REQUEST IN THE ABSENCE OF A COMMISSION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROPOSAL, THE LEGAL EXPERTS WHO WERE CONSULTED STATED THAT THE COUNCIL IS INDEED ENTITLED TO TAKE SUCH A VOTE. THE SUBSEQUENT VOTE SHOWED A MAJORITY AGAINST THE FRENCH PROPOSAL.

6. FOLLOWING THIS VOTE, WHICH TOOK PLACE IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF JANUARY 15, CHIRAC, LEFT THE COUNCIL ROOM DECLARING THAT HE SAW NO REASON TO CONTINUE

PARTICIPATING IN THE MEETING. THEREUPON
ERTL CLOSED THE MEETING.

7. ON LEAVING THE MEETING, CHIRAC REPORTEDLY DECLARED THAT
HIS MOVE DID NOT SIGNIFY A "POLITICAL WALKOUT" AND THAT HE
WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR
JANUARY 21 AND 22.

8. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED (REF B), THE COMMISSION ENVISAGES FINAL-
IZING ITS PROPOSALS FOR THE 1974/75 CAP PRICES INCLUDING THE PRICE
FOR BEEF IN A MEETING TO BE HELD IN STRASBOURG ON JANUARY 16.
(WE REPORTED ERRONEOUSLY (REF B) THAT THIS MEETING WILL BE
HELD ON FEBRUARY 16.) THEREFORE THE 1974/75 CAP PRICES
PROBABLY WILL BE DISCUSSED IN THE JANUARY 21-22 COUNCIL
MEETING. IT CANNOT BE EXCLUDED THAT THE COUNCIL IN ONE OF
THE SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS WILL DECIDE THAT THE 1974/75
BEEF SUPPORT PRICES SHALL BE EFFECTIVE ON MARCH 1 RATHER
THAN ON APRIL 1, AS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED. GREENWALD

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